
IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES,

SEPTEMBER 25, 1850.

Read twice, and referred to the Committee on Commerce.

SEPTEMBER 28, 1850.

Reported without amendment, considered as in Committee of the Whole, and ordered to lie on the table.

AN ACT

To amend an act entitled "An act to provide for the better security of the lives of passengers on board of vessels propelled in whole or in part by steam."

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Repre-*
2 *sentatives of the United States of America in Congress*
3 *assembled,* That no license, under the provisions of the
4 act to which this is an amendment, shall be granted, or
5 other papers issued by any collector, to any vessel pro-
6 pelled in whole or in part by steam, until he shall have
7 satisfactory evidence that all the provisions of this act have
8 been fully complied with; and if any such vessel shall be
9 navigated, with freight or passengers on board, without
10 complying with the terms of this act, the owners thereof,
11 and the vessel itself shall be subject to the penalties con-
12 tained in the second section of the act to which this is an
13 amendment.

1 SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted,* That it shall be the
2 duty both of the inspectors of the hulls of steamers, and
3 the inspectors of boilers and engines, to examine and see
4 that suitable and safe provisions are made throughout
5 such vessels, to guard against loss or danger from fire, and
6 no license on any application shall be granted, if any com-
7 bustible material liable to take fire from heated iron, or any
8 other heat generated on board of such vessels in and
9 about the boilers, pipes, or machinery, shall be placed at
10 less than eighteen inches distant from such heated metal or
11 other substance likely to cause ignition, unless a column
12 of air or water intervenes between such heated surface
13 and any wood or other combustible material so exposed,
14 sufficient, at all times, and under all circumstances, to pre-
15 vent ignition; and further, when wood is so exposed to
16 ignition, as an additional preventive, it shall be shielded by
17 some incombustible material in such manner as to leave
18 the air to circulate freely between such material and the
19 wood.

1 SEC. 3. *And be it further enacted,* That every ves-
2 sel so propelled by steam, and carrying passengers, shall
3 have not less than three forcing pumps of at least six inch
4 chamber, two to be worked by hand, and one by steam, if
5 steam can be employed, otherwise by hand; one whereof
6 shall be placed near the stern, one near the stem, and one

7 amidship ; each having a suitable, well-fitted hose, of at
8 least two-thirds the length of the vessel, kept at all times
9 in perfect order and ready for immediate use ; each of
10 which pumps shall also be supplied with water by a pipe
11 connected therewith, and passing through the side of the
12 vessel, so low as to be at all times in the water when she
13 is afloat: *Provided, however,* That any steamer which
14 shall not at any time carry more than fifty passengers, shall
15 not be required to have more than two such pumps, one of
16 which shall be prepared to work by steam as aforesaid.

1 SEC. 4. *And be it further enacted,* That every such
2 vessel, carrying passengers, shall have at least two boats
3 supplied with oars, in good condition at all times for ser-
4 vice, one of which boats shall be a metallic life-boat, fire-
5 proof, of approved model, not less than twenty-five feet
6 long, six feet six inches wide, and two feet deep, and in all
7 respects a good, substantial, safe, sea-boat, capable of sus-
8 taining, inside and outside, fifty persons, and having a can-
9 vas fender around the gunwale, filled with cork, of not less
10 than six inches in diameter, with life-lines attached thereto
11 at suitable distances. And every such vessel carrying
12 more than fifty passengers, shall also have a similar boat
13 for every additional fifty passengers, or, instead thereof,
14 for every such number, a good, substantial, safe, wooden
15 life-boat, of suitable model, fitted with life-lines in manner

16 aforesaid, and capable of sustaining, inside and outside,
17 that number of persons ; and not more than two such boats
18 shall be of wood for each steamer: *Provided, however,*
19 That ferry and tow boats shall be exempt from the obliga-
20 tion to carry the life-boats herein provided for ; and the
21 inspectors are hereby authorized to grant a like dispensa-
22 tion to small steamers of light draft, navigating small or
23 shallow rivers: *Provided,* They shall be fully satisfied
24 that such steamers have other provisions for the preserva-
25 tion of life in case of fire, which are amply sufficient for
26 that purpose.

1 SEC. 5. *And be it further enacted,* That every such
2 vessel, carrying passengers, shall also be provided with a
3 good life-preserver, made of cork, double tin, or copper,
4 for each and every person on board, which life-preservers
5 shall always be distributed and kept in readiness in the
6 berths and state rooms for the benefit of passengers occu-
7 pying the same, and also in the most conspicuous and
8 suitable place for all others ; and shall also keep after the
9 rate of eight fire buckets and three axes for every hun-
10 dred tons measurement of the vessel, which shall always
11 be kept distributed in a suitable manner and in good order,
12 ready to be used in case of fire.

1 SEC. 6. *And be it further enacted,* That no curtains
2 made of cotton, or of any material alike combustible, shall

3 be suspended or used in any such vessel carrying passen-
 4 gers; nor shall powder, oil of turpentine, or materials
 5 which ignite by friction, be carried on any such vessels as
 6 freight; and when kept on board as stores, they must be
 7 placed in metallic vessels.

1 **SEC. 7. *And be it further enacted,*** That it shall be
 2 the duty of each collector, to cause any and all such ves-
 3 sels arriving in or departing from his district, to be exam-
 4 ined at any and all times without notice, when he may deem
 5 such examinations necessary or expedient to secure the
 6 faithful execution of this act; and the officer so examining
 7 shall report any omission to comply with the terms herein
 8 prescribed; and shall in such report state the particulars
 9 of the deficiency, and thereupon the collector shall com-
 10 municate the same to the district attorney, who shall pro-
 11 ceed against the delinquent or delinquents according to the
 12 provisions of this and the act to which it is an amendment.

1 **SEC. 8. *And be it further enacted,*** That all boilers
 2 to which the heat is applied to the external surface, shall
 3 be tested with a hydraulic press every six months; and all
 4 boilers to which the heat is applied to the internal surface,
 5 shall be tested every six months during which such boilers
 6 may be in actual service; the safety valve of all such boilers
 7 as are tested shall be loaded at sixty-five-one-hundredths
 8 of the strain applied by the press, and any engineer, cap-

tain, or owner, allowing a greater pressure to be used than is fixed by the inspector, shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and any loss of life growing out of the use of such excess of steam, shall be deemed manslaughter; and any inspector, who shall inspect a steamer which shall take fire, explode, or sink from decay, by which loss of life occur, shall be subject to a fine of three hundred dollars, unless said inspector shall prove that such loss was the result of neglect on the part of the crew, captain, owners, or engineers of said steamer: *Provided*, Such liability shall not extend beyond the term for which said inspector gave such steamer a certificate; and instead of the inspectors now provided by law, there shall be one inspector of hulls, and two inspectors of boilers and engines, and machinery, who shall inspect all such vessels. The inspectors of machinery shall provide themselves with a suitable press for testing the strength of boilers, and shall see that all steamers to which this law applies are equipped and fitted as herein provided. The inspectors of hulls shall annually inspect all steamers that have been in service three years or more; and the inspectors of boilers and machinery shall receive from the collectors of the port where such steamers are registered as he may have inspected, the sum of twenty dollars per annum for each steamer so inspected, payable at the end of the year after such services shall have been

34 rendered. Inspectors of hulls shall receive ten dollars per
35 annum for the inspection of all such steamers as have been
36 in commission three years or more, and no collector shall
37 grant a license to any steamer until the master or owner
38 pay to said collector the sum required to be paid for the
39 inspection of such steamers during the succeeding year.

1 SEC. 9. *And be it further enacted*, That if the mas-
2 ter of any vessel, propelled in whole or in part by steam,
3 owned in whole or in part by a citizen of the United States
4 of America, or by a citizen of any foreign country, and
5 navigating the waters of the United States, or sailing to or
6 from any port in the United States, shall take on board
7 such vessel a greater number of passengers than in the
8 following proportion to the space occupied by them and
9 appropriated for their use, and unoccupied by stores or
10 other goods not being the personal baggage of such pas-
11 sengers, that is to say, one passenger for every twelve
12 clear superficial feet of deck, whether the same be for deck
13 or cabin passengers, every such master shall be deemed
14 guilty of a misdemeanor, and be liable to the penalty pro-
15 vided for in the first section of the act passed twenty-
16 second of February, one thousand eight hundred and forty-
17 seven, entitled "An act to regulate the carriage of passen-
18 gers in merchant vessels. And this act shall take effect

19 on the first day of April, one thousand eight hundred and
20 fifty-one.

Passed the House of Representatives: *September 25, 1850.*

Attest: **RICHARD M. YOUNG, Clerk.**